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DEC 05 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

Glenda Wiles

From: Jeffrey, Robert [rjeffrey@mt.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2007 1:37 PM
To: Mayor of Stevensville; Lake (Rep.), Bob; Bob Scott; DeAnne Harbaugh; Gary Maclaren; Jerry Steele; Jessica Randazzo; Jim Shockley; Mike LaSalle; Nancy Joy Hendrickson; Glenda Wiles; Planning; Ray Hawk; Rick Laible; Rick Scheele; Robert Sutherland; Ron Stoker; Wilson, Sheena
Cc: Habeck, Bob; Homer, Charles; Klemp, Dave; Merchant, Eric; Wolfe, Debra; Hanson, Judy; Oppen, Richard; Livers, Tom; Lea Jordan; Morgan Farrell
Subject: Ravalli County Fails Air Quality Standards - Public Official Meeting Invitation
Importance: High

Dear Ravalli County Public Official:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently revised the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM). The NAAQS are nation-wide air quality standards established to protect the public from unhealthy levels of air pollution. EPA's revised PM NAAQS took effect on December 18, 2006.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) evaluated air quality monitoring data across the state and determined that Missoula, Lincoln, and Ravalli Counties fail to meet the PM NAAQS. The Governor is required to notify EPA of all counties violating the PM NAAQS by December 18, 2007. EPA is then required to take final action on the Governor's recommended "nonattainment area" list by December 18, 2008 and officially confirm their status as nonattainment areas. As a consequence of EPA designation of nonattainment, Congress directs states to submit a federally enforceable air pollution control plan to EPA for approval.

In Ravalli County, new air quality regulations on motor vehicles, wood stoves, open burning, and industrial operations must be developed and will likely affect many county residents. Proactively, DEQ would like to work with local governments, the potentially regulated community, and other interested parties to identify and develop the new regulations to control the sources of particle matter air pollution in Ravalli County. DEQ representatives will hold the initial meeting with interested parties in the Ravalli County Commission meeting room on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 from 1 to 3 PM. **DEQ representatives will hold a follow-up meeting with Ravalli County public officials in the Ravalli County Commission meeting room on Thursday, December 13, 2007 from 9 to 11 AM to answer questions concerning the regulatory process.**

If you have any questions, please contact me or Bob Habeck (bhabeck@mt.gov or 444-7305). Thank you for your efforts in protecting Ravalli County's clean air resource.

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